(a) whether it is a fact that handloom and powerloom sectors have no represenatation in the committee formed by the Textile Commissioner to finalise the stamping and marking, despite contributing 90 per cent of fabrics manufactured in the country;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from the Merchants' Chamber to reconstitute the said committee to make the same broad based;

(c) if so, what action Government have taken thereon; and

(d) if replies to parts (b) and (c) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No, Sir. The powerloom sector is represented in the Committee constituted by the Textile Commissioner by the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI). The Handloom cloth is already outside the purview of current marking regulations.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The representation from Merchant's Chamber of Commerce, Kolkata has been received. The Textile Commissioner has been directed to expand the committee to include representatives of the Powerloom and other sectors, as the case may be, while keeping representation of all regions of the country in view.

(d) Does not arise.

Duty Entitlement Passbook Benefits for Titanium Dioxide

*257. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the products of Titanium dioxide for which the "duty entitlement passbook benefits" is not existing and the industrial establishment in Kerala which produces such products;

(b) the quantity of Titanium dioxide reutile grade exported during the current year and the quantity exported during the last year; and

(c) whether Government propose to amend the policy and extend the benefit of Duty Entitlement Passbook to the Titanium dioxide reutile grade produced by KMML in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The export product Titanium dioxide rutile grade is having 1% DEPB rate for packing material. However there is no separate DEPB entry for the main product as such. M/s. Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd. (KMML), Kollam manufactures Titanium dioxide rutile grade.

(b) The export of Titanium dioxide rutile grade during last year was 12777.98 MTs and 6570.5 MTs during current financial year (April-September). As there is no separate ITC (HS) classification for Titanium dioxide Rutile grade and Anatase grade, the export quantity stated above are for both the grades.

(c) No application for fixation of DEPB rate for export of Titanium dioxide rutile grade has so far been received consequent to the determination of Standard Input Output Norms (SION) for this product.

Filling of SC, ST and OBC vacancies

*258. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed any special drive for employment exchanges to fill up the vacancies for SCs, STs and OBCs in Government and PSUs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) Employment Exchanges sponsor candidates against the vacancies notified to them. Responsibility for filling up of vacancies, including those for SCs, STs and OBCs, rests with the respective Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings. However, a special drive to fill the backlog of reserved vacancies of SCs and STs has been launched by the various Ministries/Departments/Public Sector Undertakings/Autonomous bodies. As per the information available as of 31.12.2005, special drive in Central Government and autonomous bodies resulted in filling up of 41.4 per cent of vacancies for SCs and 34.4 per cent of vacancies of STs in direct recruitment whereas, in case of promotions, the percentage achievement was around 50.8 percent and 27.3 percent respectively.